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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Status of Petroleum Industry

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1. [redacted] there has been an appreciable increase in the produc-
tion of crude petroleum in Albania during the past year or so. During
1953 the total production amounted to some 3,345,000 barrels, which
was slightly more than 300 thousand barrels above the production for
the year 1952. Indications are that this figure will increase during
1954 as a result of new production in the Durazzo /Durres/ area where five new
oil wells are producing slightly less than 150 barrels per month of
heavy crude oil, and at Krufe in the central part of Albania, where
two small producers have been completed out of a total of five deep
wells drilled. The oil from the Durazzo area is very heavy, with a
high bitumen content, and is being sent to Black Sea refineries in
the USSR for processing since it can not be handled by any of the
refineries in Albania.
2. [redacted] the USSR military mission
in Tirane is making arrangements to have two Soviet heavy rotary
drilling rigs brought in for exploring deeper formations in the
Durazzo area, since Soviet geologists think the best oil possibilities
lie in formations at depths near 17 thousand feet.

SEE LAST PAGE FOR SUBJECT & AREA CODE

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3. A cruiser of the Soviet Navy is to visit various Albanian ports during June and July of 1954, and is bringing an oil mission from Moscow which will tour the oil areas of Devoll, Berat, Durazzo, and Kruje fields, collecting information for making a report and recommendations for possible geophysical surveys of the entire country. The present production would not seem of great importance, but nevertheless a USSR petroleum office is being set up in Valona under the direction of Lt Col Yusopoff of the Soviet Military Engineers Corps. Among the staff of the office are citizens of Iran, Egypt, and Syria. Meanwhile, the Albanian Mining Department has carried out exploratory drilling operations along the Albanian-Greek border with particular attention to the Korca and Saranda areas

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4. A new refinery at Cerzic/Bic7 has been completed and is now capable of processing approximately 2.5 million barrels of crude oil yearly. The refinery at Valona has increased its capacity to approximately 3.5 million barrels yearly through the addition of new equipment, and by the end of 1954 it is expected that a new lube unit will have been completed at this plant. There has been some discussion regarding possible construction of a refinery in the Durazzo area if production from that area should continue to expand, but nothing has been done on this project other than requests from the Albanian Government technicians for recommendations by German Soviet Zone manufacturers of refining equipment.

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